



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5518

LCO No. 2534



Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by:
(INS)

***AN ACT IMPOSING A SURCHARGE ON CERTAIN PERSONAL RISK
INSURANCE POLICIES TO FUND REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS'
OPERATING BUDGETS AND CERTAIN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING
COSTS AND PURCHASES OF FIRE EQUIPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) Each insurance company
2 that issues, renews, amends or endorses a homeowners or renters
3 insurance policy on or after July 1, 2016, shall remit to the Insurance
4 Commissioner a surcharge, not later than January thirty-first annually,
5 at the rate of one per cent, on the net direct premiums received by such
6 company during the calendar year next preceding from such policies
7 written on property or risks located or resident in this state. Any such
8 remittances collected shall be deposited in the Connecticut Fire Safety
9 Fund established pursuant to section 2 of this act. As used in this
10 subsection, "net direct premiums" has the same meaning as provided
11 in section 12-201 of the general statutes.

12 (b) Each such insurance company shall include with such
13 remittance, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner,

14 documentation to substantiate the surcharge amount remitted.

15 (c) Any insurance company aggrieved because of the surcharge
16 levied under this section may appeal therefrom to the superior court
17 for the judicial district of New Britain.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) (1) There is established an
19 account to be known as the "Connecticut Fire Safety Fund" which shall
20 be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The
21 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in
22 the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the
23 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the
24 following order:

25 (A) To fund the operating budgets of regional fire schools
26 established pursuant to section 7-323u of the general statutes; and

27 (B) To fund training costs and fees for Firefighter I certification of
28 paid and volunteer municipal firefighters, provided (i) the
29 municipality, fire department, fire company or fire district requesting
30 such funds requires its firefighters to submit to criminal background
31 checks, and (ii) such firefighters have passed such criminal
32 background checks. Such training costs and fees shall not include any
33 costs associated with such criminal background checks.

34 (2) Any moneys remaining in the account shall be expended (A) to
35 offset the costs of other firefighter training programs, including, but
36 not limited to, Firefighter II certification and fire operations, or (B) for
37 the bulk purchase of fire equipment by a municipality. For the
38 purposes of this subsection, "municipal" or "municipality" means any
39 town, city, borough, consolidated town and city, consolidated town
40 and borough or fire district.

41 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
42 shall establish (1) the form and manner of (A) submission of proposed
43 operating budgets by regional fire schools, and (B) submission of

44 funding requests for the costs specified under subparagraph (B) of
45 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section or subdivision (2) of
46 subsection (a) of this section, (2) expenditure reporting requirements
47 for regional fire schools, municipalities, fire departments and fire
48 companies that receive moneys from the Connecticut Fire Safety Fund
49 in the current fiscal year, and (3) a methodology or system for
50 determining the distribution of moneys for the costs specified under
51 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section or
52 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner may
53 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
54 the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To impose a surcharge on the net direct premiums of homeowners and renters insurance policies written by insurance companies on property or risks located or resident in this state, to fund the operating budgets of regional fire schools, certain training costs and fees and purchases of fire equipment.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]